



The new Foreign Minister of Honduras, Javier Efraim Bu, gestures during his presentation to the Diplomatic Corps accredited in Honduras



EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas, attends the "Weimar Plus" ministerial meeting in Rome



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio poses during a meeting with the Kazakhstan deputy PM in the Treaty Room of the State Department in Washington



France's Prime Minister Francois Bayrou waits for Quebec's Prime Minister ahead of a meeting at Hotel Matignon in Paris

Trump urges Iran to 'make a deal, before there is nothing left'

AFP, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES: US President Donald Trump urged Iran on Friday to "make a deal", warning of "even more brutal" attacks to come after Israel launched strikes at Iranian nuclear facilities. His comments on his Truth Social platform came after Israel pounded Iran in a series of air raids on Friday, striking 100 targets. The operation killed senior figures - among them the armed forces chief and top nuclear scientists - and Iran has called Israel's wave of strikes a "declaration of war."

On Friday morning, Trump said: "I gave Iran chance after chance to make a deal." He added that Israel - which Trump has closely aligned with since his return to the White House - has a lot of weapons thanks to the United States and "they know how to use it." "There has already been great death and destruction, but there is still time to make this slaughter, with the next already planned attacks being even more brutal, come to an end," Trump



US President Donald Trump and Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei



said on his Truth Social platform. "Iran must make a deal, before there is nothing left... JUST DO IT, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE," he said. Trump earlier told Fox News he had been made aware of the Israeli strikes before they happened, and stressed that Tehran "cannot have a nuclear bomb," the US broadcaster said. He also said that "we are hoping to get back to the negotiating table," according to Fox News. During Trump's first term, he pulled the United States out of a landmark agree-

ment to relieve sanctions on Iran in return for curbs on its nuclear program. Fox News also reported that Trump's administration reached out to at least one key Middle Eastern ally to acknowledge that the strike was going to happen, but said the United States was not involved. "Trump noted the US is ready to defend itself and Israel if Iran retaliates," Fox News said. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said earlier Thursday that the United States was "not involved in strikes against Iran and our top

ATTACKING IRAN, ISRAEL AGAIN CALLS BLUFF OF 'MAN OF PEACE' TRUMP

AFP, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES: When US President Donald Trump publicly implored Israel not to attack Iran, he declared, once again, that his goal was to be a peacemaker. Hours later on Thursday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu -- one of Trump's closest international allies -- unleashed a major military campaign described as a "preemptive" strike against Iran's nuclear program. The attack marks the latest setback for Trump's lofty goal set out at the start of his second term of being a "man of peace." Russian President Vladimir Putin, with whom Trump has also boasted a warm relationship, has rebuffed his overtures for a ceasefire with Ukraine. And Israel resumed another massive offensive in Gaza after talks bogged down on extending a ceasefire with Hamas reached with Trump's support at the end of his predecessor Joe Biden's term. Trump's friend and roving envoy Steve Witkoff -- who has negotiated in all three crises -- had been set to meet Iranian officials again Sunday in Oman. Trump later was careful not to distance himself from Israel, where some sources sought to suggest that the public US statements were meant to catch Iran off guard. In successive social media posts, Trump said that Iran had failed to accept his terms and that the attack came one day after a 60-day deadline he had issued, although that did not explain why Witkoff had still scheduled talks with Iran.

priority is protecting American forces in the region." "Let me be clear: Iran should not target US inter-

EU extends Ukrainians' right to stay until March 2027

AFP, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM: EU countries on Friday approved a one-year extension of the temporary protection offered to Ukrainian refugees fleeing Russia's war, allowing them to stay in the bloc until March 2027.

Some 4.3 million Ukrainians are registered as refugees across the European Union, with Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic hosting the largest communities. "While Russia continues to terrorise Ukrainian civilians with indiscriminate air strikes the EU continues to show its solidarity," said Tomasz Siemoniak, the interior minister of Poland, which holds the EU's rotating presidency.

"We will continue to offer protection for millions of Ukrainian refugees for another year". The 27-nation bloc granted Ukrainians temporary protections in the weeks after Moscow's full-scale invasion of its neighbour in February 2022.

After several roll-overs, the measure was set to expire next March - but it will now be extended until March 4, 2027.



Becky G attends the "Rebecca" premiere during the Tribeca Festival at United Palace Theater in New York City

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FROM PAGE 1

BLACK BOX SEARCH ENDS, HUNT FOR ANSWERS BEGINS

An official said the recovery was made from the rooftop of the medical college hostel building which is part of the residential quarters of BJ Medical College. The tail cone of the aircraft was lodged near the top of the building. The DFDR typically located in the tail section of an aircraft is painted bright orange to make them easier to locate in wreckage.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the scene of the crash and met the injured at the Ahmedabad civil hospital. He spent around 20 minutes at the crash site.

Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said the DFDR has been recovered within 28 hours from the accident site by the AAIB. "This marks an important step forward in the investigation. This will significantly aid the enquiry into the incident," he said on X.

There was no word yet on recovery of the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR), which is also known as a Black box. CVR records radio transmissions and other sounds in the cockpit, such as conversations between the pilots and engine noises.

As grieving families of the victims try to come to terms with the catastrophe and desperately wait to collect the bodies, police said bodies of six victims were handed over to their families after identification.

Of the 265 bodies brought to the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital for post-mortem on Thursday, six victims were identified so far as their faces were intact, police inspector Chirag Gosai said.

He said DNA profiling is underway to ascertain the identities of others as their bodies are charred beyond recognition.

"We have handed over the six bodies to the relatives. We have started the process of collecting DNA samples of relatives for profiling to identify bodies that are charred beyond recognition," Gosai said.

"Relatives of 215 deceased persons have approached us to give their samples," he added. "It will take nearly 72 hours to complete the exercise of matching the DNA samples. Once there is a match, bodies will be handed over to relatives from the post-mortem room."

Tata Group Chairman N Chandrasekaran said it will not retreat from its responsibilities from doing what is right even though it is a "difficult" time, while emphasizing that the group, which owns Air India, will be transparent in its communication on the plane crash.

In an internal communication to the employees, he also said that when Tata Sons took over Air India, ensuring the safety of its passengers was its first and foremost priority and "there was no compromising on it."

Sources said officials of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) visited the crash site. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) on Thursday said in a post on X that it will be "leading a team of US investigators travelling to India to assist the AAIB with its investigation into the Ahmedabad crash. NTSB is a US government agency that investigates civil aviation accidents.

Aviation experts said only a full investigation into the crash would determine the cause and that people should wait for the proper investigation to conclude.

"There are a lot of things which could have gone wrong in terms of technicalities or in terms of flap or engine controls is concerned. So, we have to await the investigation report on the Black box, and whatever we get out of the Black box recording, the data will tell us what actually transpired and what was the actual cause of the crash," said Sarosh Damania of Sarosh Damania and Co.

DGCA ORDERS INSPECTION OF A-I'S B-787 FLEET

The regulator has ordered various one-time checks of the Boeing 787 planes, including inspection of fuel parameter monitoring and associated system checks. Inspection of cabin air compressor and associated systems, electronic engine control system test, engine fuel driven actuator-operational test, and oil system checks have also been ordered.

Besides, DGCA has directed to carry out a serviceability check of the hydraulic system and review of take-off parameters.

According to an order issued by the watchdog, flight control inspection has to be introduced in transit inspection till further notice, apart from having power assurance checks within two weeks.

Also, DGCA has said there should be "closure of maintenance actions based upon the review of repetitive sightings during the last 15 days on B787-8/9 aircraft at the earliest".

Reports of these checks have to be submitted to the regulator for review.

OLA, UBER NOT FOR GOA: CM

MLA Jit Arolkar added, "The Chief Minister clearly said that any aggregator like Ola or Uber will not come to Goa. He only said that there has to be an equal rate. He has also held meetings with transport department officials on taxi issues."

However, a taxi operator who was among the delegation that met the chief minister said, "We have demanded that the cab aggregator system should be scrapped. We do not want it. The Chief Minister has assured us that he will give us what we want." Another operator from Mandrem echoed, "The Chief Minister assured us not to bring in any cab aggregator in Goa. But we still oppose apps. We will not join any app. It is not feasible in Goa."

The draft guidelines, notified on May 20, 2025, are open for stakeholder comments until June 30. They mandate that drivers receive at least the government-prescribed fare per journey, with aggregators required to pay within 72 hours. A 25% penalty applies for delays.

Meanwhile, R Lakshamaiah, General Secretary of the All India Road Transport Workers Federation and National Vice President of CITU, strongly opposed the policy, warning that large corporates would initially offer low rates to capture the market, only to later harm local taxi operators.

He argued that the guidelines favour corporates, threatening the livelihoods of taxi drivers. CITU plans to submit a memorandum opposing the policy.

Vivek Montero, another CITU leader, highlighted that Goa's tourism sector supports 25,000 taxi owners and their families, warning that cab aggregators could gradually destroy their livelihoods.

MICROPLASTIC MENACE THREATENS RIVERS SAL AND TEREKHOL

Both estuaries showed predominance of microplastics in the 5-1 mm size range, with white being the most common colour.

Distinct contamination patterns emerged between the estuaries, with fibres more prevalent in Terekhol and fragments dominating Sal. Polymer analysis identified polyethylene, polypropylene, and polyamide in samples from both sites. The primary sources include fishing activities, everyday plastic products, sewage discharges, packaging materials, and ropes, with river inflows and fishing-related activities being the main contributors.

Pollution Load Index values for both estuaries exceeded 1, confirming contamination. Scanning Electron Microscopy and Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy analysis revealed surface degradation in microplastic particles and presence of elements including carbon, oxygen, iron, silicon, and various metals.

Sal estuary faces greater anthropogenic pressure from fishing jetties, untreated sewage discharge, and contaminated tributaries, resulting in higher microplastic prevalence. While Terekhol estuary is also contaminated, it appears less severely impacted with less intense pollution sources.

The researchers recommend establishing continuous monitoring systems to track pollution sources and implementing policy interventions to reduce single-use plastics, improve waste management, and enhance public awareness. They also call for comprehensive eco-toxicological assessments to evaluate the impact of microplastic-bound metals and polymers on local aquatic fauna. The study emphasizes that protecting Goa's estuarine environments requires a combined approach of regulatory actions and research initiatives to address this urgent environmental issue.

CRYPTO INCOME ON I-T RADAR

The I-T department is nudging them to file an updated Income Tax Return (ITR) if any income on account of crypto transactions has not been declared or mis-declared by them.

This communication is part of the NUDGE (Non-intrusive Usage of Data to Guide and Enable) campaign undertaken by the department with a philosophy of "trust taxpayers first" philosophy.

According to section 115BBH of the Income Tax Act (provided by the Finance Act of 2022), a flat tax rate of 30 per cent (plus applicable surcharge and cess) is levied on income from crypto transfers. The provision does not allow deduction of any expenses except the cost of acquisition.

Further, set-off of losses from crypto investment or trading is not allowed to be set off against any other income or for carry forward to subsequent years.

Sources indicated that data analytics done by the tax department has shown that a "significant" number of people have not filed the Schedule VDA (for crypto) in their ITRs, and such people were offering tax on the income earned at a lower rate or claiming cost indexation.

It is understood that the ITRs filed by taxpayers are being verified by the department with tax deducted at source (TDS) returns filed by various cryptocurrency exchanges (Virtual Asset Service Providers), and the defaulters may be selected for further "verification or scrutiny".

This is the third in the NUDGE series campaign undertaken by the I-T Department and the CBDT, where they gently remind taxpayers about their liabilities.

The previous two were related to seeking correct declarations on foreign assets and income by taxpayers and withdrawal of bogus claims of deduction under section 80GGC of the I-T Act.

ISRAEL STRIKES IRAN'S NUKE SITES

Israel had long threatened such a strike, and successive American administrations had sought to prevent it, fearing it would ignite a wider conflict across the Middle East and possibly be ineffective at destroying Iran's dispersed and hardened nuclear programme.

But a confluence of developments triggered by Hamas' Oct 7, 2023, attack and the election of President Donald Trump created the conditions that allowed Israel to finally follow through on its threats.

Israel had told the Trump administration that the large-scale attacks were coming, officials in the US and Israel said on condition of anonymity to describe private diplomatic discussions.

On Wednesday, the US pulled some American diplomats from Iraq's capital and offered voluntary evacuations for the families of US troops in the wider Middle East. On Friday, the US began shifting military resources, including ships, in the region as Israel prepared for more retaliation, two US officials said.

Countries in the region condemned Israel's attack, while leaders around the globe called for immediate deescalation from both sides. Iran asked for an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council.

Israel's military said about 200 aircraft were involved in the initial attack on about 100 targets. Its Mossad spy agency positioned explosive drones and precision weapons inside Iran ahead of time, and used them to target Iranian air defences and missile launchers near Tehran, according to two security officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

It was not possible to independently confirm the officials' claims.

Among the key sites Israel attacked was Iran's main nuclear enrichment facility at Natanz, where black smoke could be seen rising into the air. Israel also said it destroyed dozens of radar installations and surface-to-air missile launchers in western Iran.

Israel military spokesman Brig Gen Effie Defrin said the Natanz facility was "significantly damaged" and that the operation was "still in the beginning".

Among those killed were three of Iran's top military leaders: one who oversaw the entire armed forces, Gen Mohammad Bagheri; one who led the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, Gen Hossein Salami; and the head of the Guard's ballistic missile programme, Gen Amir Ali Hajizadeh.